

OBITUARY.

The Council regret that they have to record the loss by death of the following Fellows and Associates during the past year:—

Fellows :—Francis Abbott.
George Bishop.
C. J. Corbett.
W. A. Cross.
J. H. Dallmeyer.
Joseph Drew.
Rev. N. S. Godfrey.
F. C. Green.
Gen. Sir H. Harness.
Julius Page.
Gen. Sir E. Sabine.
Rev. A. Smith.
Prof. H. J. S. Smith.
William Spottiswoode.
Thomas Warner.
T. R. White.

Associates :—Wilhelm Klinkerfues.
J. F. J. Schmidt.
Yvon Villarceau.

CHARLES JOSEPH CORBETT was born on May 29, 1823, at Mareham-le-Fen, in Lincolnshire, and was the third son of Mr. Joseph Corbett of that place.

By profession, Mr. Corbett was an architect, and it was not till about fifteen years ago that he turned his attention seriously to astronomy. From that time, until advancing years and infirmity of eyesight compelled him to give up work, he occupied himself chiefly in the investigation of solar phenomena, and made a number of observations of Sun-spots, which, however, he was never able to complete. His work was carried on at his own observatory, at Imber Court, Thames Ditton, his residence in Surrey. He died on March 24, 1882, and was buried at Thames Ditton. He was elected a Fellow of the Society on December 10, 1869.

Colonel WILLIAM ASSHETON CROSS, of Red Scar, near Preston, was educated at Rugby, and Trinity College, Cambridge. He devoted himself from an early age to scientific pursuits, and had constructed a well-appointed Observatory at his residence even in his college days. Here he had mounted equatorially a celebrated 5-foot refractor by Dollond, once the property of the Rev. W. R. Dawes, with which many of that well-known observer's early observations had been made. Later in life Colonel Cross became

the friend and disciple of the late Mr. Lassell, and under his guidance succeeded admirably in grinding and polishing very excellent specula, one of which, a Newtonian of 15 in. diameter, he mounted equatorially, with all the best appliances, in a second Observatory with hemispherical dome. The figure of this speculum was wonderfully perfect, and elicited the warmest approval from Mr. Lassell. By a rude stroke of fate, one which denotes the rapid strides that have been made in the size of astronomical instruments in the course of one generation, Dawes's refractor mentioned above was degraded to become the finder of the new reflector. An excellent eye and remarkable mechanical skill were conspicuous in Col. Cross, and had not his time and powers been occupied by other matters, he would have earned for himself a high place among amateur astronomers. He died suddenly at the age of 64. He was elected a Fellow of the Society on April 14, 1848.

JOSEPH DREW, son of the late Joseph Drew, of the Dockyard Service, R.N., was born May 21, 1814, at Deptford. He was founder, proprietor, and editor from 1850 to 1862, of the *Southern Times*, and author of "In the Beginning," "The Mystery of Creation," "Our Home in the Stars," "The Rival Queens," "The Life of the Duke of Wellington," and other essays. He delivered gratuitously nearly 200 lectures, scientific and historical, at various institutions in the south-west of England between 1867 and 1876.

The degree of LL.D. was conferred on him by Richmond University, U.S.A., in 1874. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society, and a member of several other scientific and literary societies. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on January 13, 1871.

NATHANIEL STEDMAN GODFREY was the only child of Nathaniel Godfrey, Esq., of London. After leaving St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, he became curate at Swansea, and subsequently at Biddenham, near Bedford. He then became incumbent of Wortley, near Leeds, and after taking temporary duty at Portsea and Southsea he became the first vicar of St. Bartholomew's Church, Southsea, and occupied this position until his death, which took place, after a long and painful illness, on October 26, 1883, in the 66th year of his age. He married Caroline Ann, the second daughter of Joseph Goodhart, Esq., of Hackney. He was successful as a composer of sacred music, and published several doctrinal works, some of them of a controversial character, and all of the Evangelical type.

Mr. Godfrey possessed a fine Newtonian reflector with silver-on-glass mirror, 9-ft. focus, by Calver, which he had mounted in an Observatory of his own contrivance. In some letters to the *English Mechanic* in 1879-80 he defended reflecting telescopes, pointing out the cause of frequent complaint, and showing